

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Final Office Action dated September 18, 2008. The Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claim 9 and the allowability of claims 2 and 6. Claims 1-6 and 9 are now pending in the application. Claims 4 and 9 have been amended to correct typographical errors. Claims 7 and 8 have been canceled without prejudice. No new matter has been introduced.

The Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested. It should be noted that the Applicants are not conceding in this application that the amended claims in their prior form are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present claim amendments have been made only to facilitate the expeditious prosecution of the application. The Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue these and other claims in one or more continuation and/or divisional patent applications.

By the Office Action, claims 1, 3-5 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,532,543 to Van Der Leeuw et al. (hereinafter 'Van Der Leeuw').

Claim 1 of the present application recites:

A high-pressure discharge lamp comprising:
 an outer envelope (1) in which a discharge vessel (11) is arranged around a longitudinal axis (22),
 the discharge vessel (11) enclosing, in a gastight manner, a discharge space (13) provided with an ionizable filling,
 the discharge vessel (11) having a first (2) and a second (3) mutually opposed neck-shaped portion through which a first (4) and a second (5) current-supply conductor, respectively, extend to a pair of electrodes (6, 7) arranged in the discharge space (13),
 the outer envelope (1) having a bulb-shaped portion adjacent the discharge space (13),
 the bulb-shaped portion having a wall thickness d_1 and
 the remainder of the outer envelope (1) having a wall thickness d_2 , wherein

the ratio of d_1 and d_2 is within the range of $0.35 \leq \frac{d_1}{d_2} \leq 1.5$, except that $\frac{d_1}{d_2} \neq 1$.

Van Der Leeuw discloses a discharge lamp including an outer envelop having a bulbous portion and a neck portion (see, e.g., Van Der Leeuw, FIG. 2). In addition, Van Der Leeuw further discloses that the outer envelope bulb has a wall thickness that varies over its surface from about 0.6 mm to about 1 mm (see, e.g., Van Der Leeuw, column 7, lines 1-3). However, it is respectfully submitted that Van Der Leeuw does not disclose or render obvious that the ratio of thicknesses of the bulbous portion and the neck portion is within the range of $0.35 \leq \frac{d_1}{d_2} \leq 1.5$. Although the thickness of the outer envelope of the Van Der Leeuw lamp varies along its surface, Van Der Leeuw does not describe how the thickness is distributed along the surface or the relative thicknesses between the neck portion and the bulbous portion. Accordingly, claim 1 is believed to be novel over Van Der Leeuw, as the reference does not disclose that the ratio of a bulb shaped portion and the remainder of the outer envelope is within the range of $0.35 \leq \frac{d_1}{d_2} \leq 1.5$. Thus, claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Similarly, claims 3-5 are believed to be in condition for allowance due at least to their dependencies from claim 1.

By the Office Action, claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Van Der Leeuw in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,510,676 to Cottaar et al. (hereinafter 'Cottaar').

As stated above, claim 7 has been canceled without prejudice. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

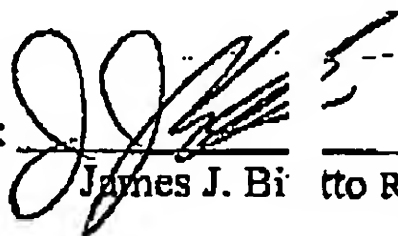
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance. Thus, withdrawal of the

rejections is respectfully requested. Early and favorable reconsideration of the case is respectfully requested.

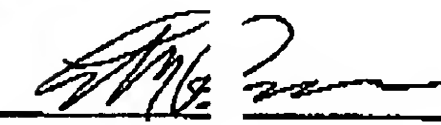
It is believed that no additional fees or charges are currently due. However, in the event that any additional fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the application, they may be charged to applicant's representatives Deposit Account No. 14-1270.

Respectfully submitted,

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